

Conclusion: Currently much good work is being done to address literacy in America, but the challenges are formidable. The effort to improve the literacy of Americans should not be limited to formal government programs. In the home, parents must promote literacy skills for their children at an early age. In the schools, educators must promote the highest reading skills from students. In the workplace, employers should provide useful opportunities for workers to continually improve their basic skills.

Clearly, too many Americans are undereducated for our times. Education for all people must be a top priority in our nation. The more literate a person is the less likely he or she will depend on welfare or be in prison, and the more likely he or she will vote and have a decent income. Access to basic education is—or at least should be—a basic human right. Opportunities for literacy education should be available to all Americans to ensure not only improvement in our economy, society, and families, but an overall better quality of life. A literate nation means a better America.

A TRIBUTE TO GILBERTO WONG,
NICARAGUAN PATRIOT

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Gilberto Wong, a leader in the Nicaraguan exile community in south Florida who returned to Nicaragua to help his native country develop economically and consolidate its hard-fought democracy.

Educated in both Nicaragua and the United States, Mr. Wong earned degrees from the Instituto Pedagógico de Managua and Saint Edward's University in Austin, TX. Once he arrived to exile in Florida in 1979, Mr. Wong made a name for himself and quickly rose in the ranks of the financial community, becoming vice-president of a prestigious financial institution as well as president of the Nicaraguan American Bankers and Businessmen Association. The Wong family has deep roots in the south Florida community, and Gilberto's brother, Juan, is co-owner of Los Ranchos, an extremely popular chain of Nicaraguan steak houses in Miami-Dade County.

In the early 1990s, Mr. Gilberto Wong returned to his homeland to become general manager of the newly-founded Banco de la Exportación, headquartered in Managua. This bank opened in 1992, specializing in trade finance services, including letters of credit and collections. That same year, Mr. Wong was awarded the great honor of being named Nicaraguan-American banker of the year.

Based on his extensive experience in both the financial and trade arenas, in 1997 Mr. Wong was appointed executive secretary of the state-owned Corporation of Free Trade Zones of Nicaragua. These export-processing zones are among the major employers in Nicaragua, and they provide over 12,000 jobs, with close to three-fourths of the positions being filled by women.

Now that Mr. Wong's term has expired as general manager of the Corporation of Free Trade Zones, he has been named director of communications for Nicaragua's President, His Excellency the Honorable Arnoldo Aleman. Mr. Wong is active in numerous associations, in-

cluding the China-Nicaraguan Association, which he serves as president, the American Chamber of Commerce of Nicaragua, the Nicaraguan-American College and the Association of Friends of the National Police.

I have been honored to know the Wong family for almost twenty years and my friendship with Gilberto runs very deep, Mr. Speaker. It is with a great sense of privilege that I rise today to honor this great patriot, Gilberto Wong, and to congratulate him for the numerous and extraordinary accomplishments that he has already achieved despite his youth.

TRIBUTE TO ANGELO R. MUSTO,
JR.

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of East Boston's most beloved and dedicated public servants. Angelo R. Musto, Jr., who died on July 4, 1998, left an inspiring legacy of bettering the lives of all he knew throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In more than eight decades on earth, there was no arena of community life neglected by Angelo Musto. Politics, social services, business development, youth programs—wherever there was a need, Angelo filled it. In his professional career, Angelo demonstrated the same spirit of selfless service, particularly in steering troubled youngsters towards a brighter future.

He began his career in the depths of the Great Depression with the National Youth Administration. He later became a counselor with the East Boston Camps and joined the Goodwill House in Jeffries Point, eventually rising to executive director in charge of a wide array of social, educational, and recreational services.

In recognition of his expertise, the late Governor John A. Volpe made Angelo a special assistant in the Boston Municipal Court in 1957 and later appointed him to the Massachusetts Advisory Committee on Corrections to help the criminal justice system mend broken lives more effectively. He was later appointed to the Suffolk County Courthouse Commission. In 1965, Angelo was appointed Deputy Commissioner of Probations and 13 years later rose to become First Deputy Commissioner.

Angelo actively worked with the East Boston Chamber of Commerce for over 40 years and received its Man of the Year Award in 1973. He also served on the boards of the United Fund, the Kiwanis, the Mental Health Area Board, the East Boston Savings Bank and the East Boston Social Centers. Among his many accomplishments, perhaps the most notable was the creation of the Goodwill House Day Program in Jeffries Point, which to this day serves as a national model for urban day camps.

Throughout his years of service, Angelo remained firmly committed to improving the lives of our youth. His work as the general director of the East Boston Camps and as a member of the East Boston Athletic Board helped give city kids a reprieve from the streets and taught them the values he embraced—discipline, compassion and strength of body and mind.

By the time I launched my first campaign for Congress in 1986, Angelo Musto had already cultivated the talents of three generations of East Boston's youth and drew on those far-reaching ties to create a formidable political presence in East Boston.

During that first campaign, he drew extensively on his detailed knowledge of the history of the community, reaching back to the arrival of the Kennedys in East Boston. Angelo knew the history, but most importantly he knew the people and the issues they cared about—quality health care, good schools, decent housing, access to college, and protection from outside forces that have long sought to sacrifice East Boston's quality of life to the airline industry.

The eager volunteers that fanned out across East Boston in 1986 quickly learned the rules of politics as taught by Angelo. I recall one incident in which one of the higher-profile members of my campaign team upbraided a volunteer in our East Boston headquarters. Angelo stepped in, and with the persuasive skill he had acquired through years of politicking, calmed the rising tension, gently rebuked the bigwig and at the same time made it clear that the Kennedy team in East Boston would never be a house divided.

Throughout the years that followed, Angelo Musto remained an invaluable member of my Congressional team. As my East Boston District Representative and 8th District Coordinator for Seniors from 1987 until his retirement in 1992, he served as a vital link to the community—attending meetings, fielding constituent calls, and working to fund worthy projects. His dedication to the comfort of East Boston's senior citizens resulted in such accomplishments as securing federal support to renovate the Don Orione Nursing Home.

With Angelo's passing, my heart goes out to his daughter Faith, his brothers Louis and Vincent, his sisters Lucille, Emma, and Theresa, and to his grandchildren George and Lisa.

The truth is, we were all a part of Angelo Musto's extended family, which reached across lines of age and party and profession to include the great sweep of those whose lives he touched and served.

ISSUES FACING YOUNG PEOPLE
TODAY

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to have printed in the RECORD this statement by a high school student from my home state of Vermont, who was speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people today. I am asking that you please insert this statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as I believe that the views of this young person will benefit my colleagues.

STATEMENT BY ABIGAIL NESSEN REGARDING
GUN CONTROL

Ms. NESSEN. I believe that our forefathers had the right idea. Their wish was to create a safe and free nation for all of us to live in, and they wrote this to prove it: "We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare,